
Personal Statement

I have embraced medicine by vocation and neurology by admiration. In particular, the work in the Paraguayan League against Epilepsy, of which I have been a part since early years in my training, as a volunteer and the shortcomings of our health system, in addition to the formalization of the national chapter as part of a much larger entity, ILAE, have shown me the way.

The work seemed titanic, at times impossible, but it seems that teaching with passion and knowledge based on evidence are such powerful tools that they not only provide personal satisfaction from knowledge and effective application in medical practice, but also inspire colleagues and all those who are touched by Epilepsy.

Although Paraguay is a country in which resources were and continue to be lacking, I believe that the work from the League (ILAE-Py) and personal training without abandoning the national reality have created the ideal conjunction that shows us that it is possible.

My job is to approach epilepsy from the excellence of knowledge, the accurate identification of the cause, and the precise and early therapeutic indication.

On this path, I have brought along colleagues who have embraced, like me, this difficult specialty and from their positions have committed to working together. Not individually, but as a team that is essential to get ahead and cure as often as we can, to relieve frequently and to console always, as is our mandate.

During my time in the Paraguayan League, I have formed work teams from the different reference centers of Neurology in Paraguay, the First Center for Epilepsy Surgery has been formed, of which I am a guest specialist, and the schools of Neurology and Neuropediatrics have been strengthened in the area of Epileptology. All this, thanks to the arrival of the best regional representatives who have come numerous times to share their experience with us and also to guide us in the difficult task of multidisciplinary work required to address Epilepsy at all ages and in all its forms.

An achievement that I am extremely satisfied is having combined the work of Adult and Pediatric Neurologists, who until not many years ago had remained apart in their approaches and practices for patients living with epilepsy, which has been re-evaluated through the joint meetings that the Paraguayan League holds annually with both Societies and recently, also the very active participation of young neurosurgeons who have been involved in their specialized training for not only surgical treatments, but also functional ones, perhaps the most promising future for the treatment of patients with epilepsy.

Although I have been an active teacher for many years, I have recently become involved in the basic sciences of the field of neuropathophysiology, along with research in this area, in which I can explore with young people in the medical field the intricate mechanisms that define the appearance of epilepsy and epileptic seizures in individuals, planting from my humble place again the seed of search, of interest, of ideas that who knows?, could bring us answers to questions that we ask ourselves today from the path we have taken, but that with the mind of the young, and their well-known freedom of concepts, can shed light on the darkest areas of the development of this hard disease.

I have discovered that this is a path that one embraces, along with what surrounds us. Technology and globalization shorten the distances of knowledge, but regional knowledge and the local reality of each one is the world in which one must apply that knowledge, so that the true change, so longed for change, can take place.

I am immensely grateful to my teachers at ILAE, Latin American and Central, who have honored me with this unexpected nomination, which I deeply value and hope to honor if it is given. Although if not, my work has not yet ceased and will be for my entire life.

Sincerely,

Silvia Maria Abente Cabrera

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